

Student Digital Preservation Day

So you want to go digital...?

January 24, 2013

Dave Thompson
Digital Curator, Wellcome Library

So, how do I spend my day...?

1. It's not all glamour, metadata & preservation events.
2. I'm responsible for 2 systems; #Goobi & Safety Deposit Box (#sdb) – for responsible read 'Snagging'.
3. Planning. Planning. Planning. Meetings. Meetings. Meetings.
4. Project management. Deadlines. Budgets. Objectives. Reporting.
5. Process management & planning, how we do stuff, how can we do it better.
6. Tiny, tiny, tiny part of my time spent on stuff like format, migration, preservation events.

Calendar - d.thompson@wellcome.ac.uk - Microsoft Outlook

File Home Send / Receive Folder View

New Appointment New Meeting New Items Today Next 7 Days Day Work Week Week Month Schedule View Open Calendar Calendar Groups E-mail Share Publish Calendar Address Book

Find a Contact Address Book Find

21 - 25 January 2013 Search All Calendar Items (Ctrl+E)

	21 Monday	22 Tuesday	23 Wednesday	24 Thursday	25 Friday
08:00	Goobi outage - upgrade roll out to production 17:00				
07:00					
08:00			Check in Goobi after update	Goobi testing - no meetings please	Check Goobi for stuck processes My desk
09:00	WDL reports due; Henshaw, Christy	SDB / snagging - no meetings please	Regular Staff meeting - 9.15 6th floor		
10:00			A&M catch-up m 215 Street; Hilt	New scanner dem	
11:00		Chemist and Druggist 291 Sabovic, Zina	Goobi testing - no meetings please	Future of web arc Street Thompson, Dave	
12:00		OCR for library system - proposal from		C+D issue metada	
13:00		SDB / snagging - no meetings please	Extension to Intra Street Thompson, Dave	Speaking - DPC Student Conference 2013 Birkbeck - B34	
14:00			CH:Ont; Orange		
15:00					
16:00	FTP follow-up; street; Henshaw, Christ			Orange chairs;	Private appointment
17:00					

Show tasks on: Due Date

mockups
image directories directly in u...
MOH reports and ingest
[Tessella] (DPS-230) Planned e...


8.46 MB Free Items: 22 All folders are up to date. Connected to Microsoft Exchange 100%

Quick career round up

1. Neither an archivist or librarian.
2. Degree in history, masters in Library & Information Studies. (MLIS)
3. Career in information in the UK & New Zealand. Working with information systems.
4. Developed information systems/processes for government.
5. National Library of New Zealand, web archiving, systems replacement, policy on born digital material.
6. Wellcome Trust since 2004. Born digital archives & digitisation.

Is an information career fun...?

1. Introduced to 3 Prime Ministers.
2. Worked with Chief Executives & Cabinet Ministers.
3. Represented my country on UN project.
4. Wrote some of the first websites for government departments.
5. Independent consultant.
6. Published, spoken at conferences, reviewed peers work, invited onto external committees.
7. Is it fun...?



**Heck,
yes!**

So, I can think of
five lessons, in
no particular
order...

1. Nothing without imagination

1. The power of digital preservation can only be revealed if we can imagine the uses the data can be put to.
2. Digital preservation is not an exercise in technology for its own sake.
3. There is nothing that cannot be achieved, but it takes more than kit, tools, computers, software.
4. Digital preservation is about engaging with creators & consumers, with the data & with the future.

2. No such thing as digital preservation

1. Only point of digital preservation is reuse of data.
Nothing else
2. It's not the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.
3. It's not about format migration & obsolete kit.
4. It's the little things that we do every day; backup, planning, IT infrastructure maintenance, policy, virus checking, integrity checking, working with creators, working with users, adding value to data.

3. Lets see how hard we can make this...

1. We say digital preservation is hard. We choose to do this.
2. Much is under our control or within our gift.
3. Unless we can make preservation an easy & sustainable activity it's not preservation.
4. We have to work in the real world.
5. Why choose to make it hard?

4. It is a quest for world domination

1. I wish I'd been told that one day archivists will rule the world.
2. Archivists have all the training to make decisions about selection, appraisal, arrangement, context, description & preservation.
3. They understand preservation, copyright, access, privacy. Stuff that matters.
4. If the amount of personal data that Google holds scares you then the power of archivists to manage that data should scare you even more.



Apologies to the
archivists, you can
of course trust
them completely.
Without question.
Totally.

5. Its not a technical problem...

1. I wish I'd known that digital preservation is not a technical problem; it's a social problem.
2. Many technical issues already have solutions, e.g. PLANETS\PLATO addresses many of the issues of migration.
3. The challenge is to move digital data into the future not just intact but in context & retaining its significance as research material.
4. This makes it a social problem.

So, what gets
me out of bed on
a frosty
morning?

This does...

Juan Jacobo Vaz



So my lessons are that...

1. It's an opportunity to be creative & to use my imagination, but also to be challenged.
2. It's an opportunity to build something that has value & worth.
3. It's an opportunity to engage with some astonishing people & even more astonishing material.
4. It's an opportunity to make history.

‘Doesn't matter if you are
Hitler, Nero or Napoleon,
because archivists,
librarians and historians will
have the final word on your
life.’

Twitter, HistoryNeedsYou (RT by DavidUnderdown 20
Jan 2013.)

Thank you

Questions now, questions later...?

Dave Thompson

Digital Curator
Wellcome Library

d.thompson@wellcome.ac.uk